



STATE OF CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

Public Hearing Testimony
Select Committee on Children
March 1, 2012



H.B. No. 5219 AN ACT CONCERNING THE INCLUSION OF YOUNG ADULTS IN THE ANNUAL REPORT CARD ON POLICIES AND PROGRAMS AFFECTING CHILDREN

The Department of Children and Families **supports** H.B. No. 5219 An Act Concerning the Inclusion of Young Adults in the Annual Report Card on Policies and Programs Affecting Children.

This legislation allows elements of the children's report card to be carried forward for young adults - up to age 25 - so that the impact of health, education and treatment programs and services delivered to children and youth can be measured as they transition beyond child-serving systems into the adult workforce and social services. Many youth leaving our care transition into programs that are provided by other state agencies, e.g. DMHAS, DDS, DSS, Labor, and it makes sense that we have the ability to track their progress, and the effectiveness of our services, for several years.

Commissioner Katz has committed to making DCF an RBA agency no later than the end of fiscal year 2014 and to that end she assigned a program director to lead our RBA efforts in the spring of 2011. We are finalizing our RBA Plan for DCF which is entitled: **Growing Healthy, Safe, Smart, and Strong**. The Department looks forward to sharing the finished plan with the committee in the near future.

The results statement for the DCF RBA plan, **Connecticut's children grow up in a stable living environment, safe, healthy, and ready to lead successful lives**, mirrors the results statement of Connecticut's Children's Report Card, mandated through Public Act 11-109, and is based on the results statement from the Program Review and Investigations 2009 pilot study of DCF programs. As DCF's RBA plan continues to take shape, and strategies to turn the curve are implemented, the systems and program areas covered in that 2009 study will be reflected through performance outcome data and report cards.

We welcome the opportunity to work with the Select Committee on Children and the Appropriations Committee in moving forward with our RBA initiative.